

## The America Company – Momence Illinois

### Odell Typewriters

In total, 6 Odell models were produced. All later models (Odell 2-5) had a round base , but with a different decoration. The Odell 1 wrote capitals only. On later models the type bar could be toppled to write caps or lower case letters.

The original Odell was manufactured by the Type Writer Co. in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin (just north of the Illinois border). It was later manufactured in the round-base form at Momence by Odell and then by Odell-Young Co, in Momence, Illinois (either before or after the move). The last versions were manufactured by a new company: America Company of Momence, Illinois. In 1906 The America company sold the last machine to carry the Odell name: the Odell 5. Soon after, the modernized International, or New American Typewriter appeared

At the top you will see that it says America Co. Momence ILL



## America No 5 – Momence Illinois

America No 5 is a very rare Odell 5 lookalike, with different decorations on the base. The machine was produced by the America Company of Momence, Il. The logos on the Odell 5 and the America 5 are identical.

The Odell 5 presented here was found together with an original bill of sale from the America Company in Momence, Illinois. On the bill, the Momence name is handwritten, over what was apparently the previous seat of the American Company, Rockford. The machine was sold in May 1906, giving proof that the Odell typewriter was in fact produced at such a late date. Odell managed to stay in business with typewriters from 1889 until 1906 with 99 percent of the machines produced in Chicago. Apart from the rare Lake Geneva models, some later models (also very rare) indicate Momence, Il, and New York.



Source: Virtual Typewriter Museum